

• Abroad •

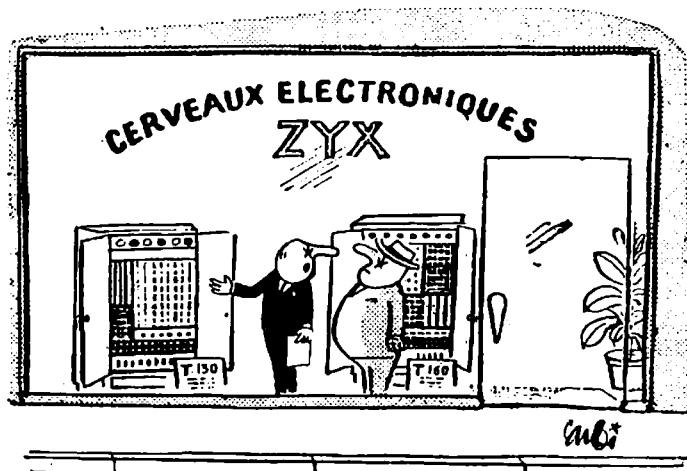
Bonn, German Federal Republic. Several years ago Fritz Tobias, well-known scholar and anti-Nazi, undertook new researches to document the proof of Nazi responsibility for the Reichstag fire and for framing the subsequent world-famous Trial. The German weekly, *Der Spiegel*, is now running a series of articles which reports his findings. On the basis of the evidence he unearthed and interviews with surviving witnesses, Tobias is certain that *neither* the Nazis *nor* the Communists were responsible for the fire. It was the individual work of the neurotic Marinus van der Lubbe, the Dutch ex-Communist, who believed he would be warning the Germans against the Nazi Reich and its war plans. The Nazis then seized the opportunity to suppress the Communist Party and a little later the Social Democrats. The Communists seized the same opportunity to manufacture the internationally circulated *Brown Book of the Hitler Terror* (published by Alfred Knopf in the U.S.) and to stage in London the international Counter-Trial that had so powerful an effect on Liberal mythology: both book and trial were based on false documents made under the direction of the Comintern's famous West European chief, Willi Muenzenberg.

Tokyo, Japan. Since the war, golf has become very popular with the wealthier Japanese. In spite of the extreme scarcity of land, there are about 200 courses. Initiation fees range from \$1,500 to upward of \$5,000—far beyond the nominally low Japanese executive's salary. By the worldwide expense account fiction, two-thirds of the golfers are "company members," with fees and dues paid by their firms. Big business is being conducted at golf-and-geisha parties for which a group of businessmen and government officials take over a golf course and hotel, with play in the daytime followed by the traditional baths, kimono dining, and entertainment from imported Tokyo geishas, who for such out-of-town appearances charge several hundred dollars apiece.

Marcoule, France. The charge that the French A-bomb project is being conducted for prestige rather than military strength seems to be confirmed by information, thought to be authentic, that has recently leaked out from the nuclear installations. At least until 1965 the French bomb will be of a primitive type utilizing plutonium 239. The 20 to 200 kiloton yield of this type is only a small fraction of that possessed by advanced U.S. and Soviet H-bombs. They are too bulky for use in missile warheads. They cannot be adapted to readily transportable H-bombs. Carried by planes that would inevitably suffer very high attrition (perhaps 90 per cent) the stockpile would have to be at least a hundred to become a serious military factor. (Today the French are understood to have only one completed bomb, with one or two more expected to be on hand for the Sahara tests early next spring.) The total plutonium production from the two reactors (G1

and G2) presently operating at Marcoule, the third (G3) slated to begin in 1962, plus the plutonium byproduct from the Chinon nuclear power plant scheduled for 1963 operation, could not provide material for 100 bombs before 1966 or 1967.

Leopoldville, Belgian Congo. With the Congo's first general election only a month away, spreading disturbances spotlight the insoluble dilemmas of Central Africa's lurch toward independence. As Belgian authority weakens, there is no responsible native political force to take its place, and no professional or administrative class from which leadership of a responsible force could be formed. In spite of the blessing of Kwame Nkrumah, Sekou Touré, the Accra All-Africa People's Congress and the international Left, Patrice Lumumba—a demagogic ex-con man with the reputed magical power to deflect bullets—has failed to win general support for his Congolese National Movement. The 100 other groups—headed by ABAKO, the Bakongo organization led by the fanatic Kazabu—are all tribal in origin. The current storms of violence—featuring the Bahutu and the giant Watusi (or Batutsi), long favorites of the travelogues—are not all "freedom struggles against the imperialistic oppressor" but ferocious, superstition-ridden battles between the native tribes that will doubtless, if left to their own devices, tear the huge Congo region apart at every seam.



L'Express
"That one hasn't superior intelligence, but it's more reasonable—it's willing to admit its mistakes."

Athens, Greece. Following Khrushchev's visit to Rumania, the Rumanian Deputy Prime Minister, M. Joja, journeyed here to press for a Balkan *détente*. He was seconded by the Soviet Ambassador Serguiev, who on November 6 held the first press conference of his six year term. Serguiev, calling for close Greek-Soviet relations in all fields political, economic, scientific, sports and cultural, bore down on the center of the Kremlin *détente* idea: a Balkan "peace zone" free of nuclear weapons and missiles—that is, a repudiation of agreements for U.S. strategic airfields and missile launching sites in the eastern Mediterranean. Serguiev renewed a standing invitation to Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis to come to Moscow.

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